

## **Announcing the 2009 MegaDEAFConference**

**March 25, 2009, noon – 2 p.m. (EST)**

Please view this Public Service Announcement at (you will need Quicktime)

[http://www.ksd.kyschools.us/megadeafconference/mdc\\_psa.mov](http://www.ksd.kyschools.us/megadeafconference/mdc_psa.mov)

### ***What is the 2009 MegaDEAFConference?***

A 2-hour videoconference that brings together all deaf schools at the same time to view student designed and conducted presentations and activities focused on both academic and cultural issues. This is a project designed to give DEAF students in elementary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate, and contribute (in ASL) to each other's learning in real time, using multi-point videoconferencing technology.

### ***What are the Goals of the 2009 MegaDEAFConference?***

- Provide collaboration opportunities between deaf schools
- Expand the community with whom our students communicate (sign)
- Increase both English and American Sign Language skills
- Help our students see beyond their immediate world

### ***What is the Format of the 2009 MegaDEAFConference?***

The 2-hour event will be broken up into 15-minute presentations from 6 different deaf schools who have been asked to prepare an interactive presentation or to showcase an interesting collaboration or project. Kentucky School for the Deaf students will video jockey (VJ) the conference. A schedule of the presentations will be sent out and posted before the 2009 MegaDEAF Conference.

### ***When Is the 2009 MegaDEAFConference Going to Be?***

The event is going to be on **March 25, 2009**, and it will run from noon until 2 p.m. EST. We strongly encourage schools to open participation to parents, administrators, and the community and to stay connected for as long as possible so that they can actively participate with sites from around the world in different time-zones.

### ***How Can You Participate?***

Those who participate as observers (not one of the six presenters) will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the MegaDEAFConference by either of the following two methods – during the conference you may send e-mails to [deafschoolsunite@ksd.kyschools.us](mailto:deafschoolsunite@ksd.kyschools.us) (you must use this method if you are using a videophone) or to actively ask questions through H.323 videoconferencing equipment.

### ***What Technology Do I Need to Participate?***

This is the beauty of the 2009 MegaDEAFConference. You may use a videophone or videoconferencing equipment; however, you must register and test your equipment before February 28, 2009, with Kentucky's Department of Education in order to participate in the conference. In order to register, please go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/244275635> before **February 28, 2009**. (Please NOTE: While

*you may use videophones to observe this conference, you may not enjoy the conference at the optimum quality and clarity required for signing.)*

***Need to Know More?***

Contact Kentucky School for the Deaf's Videoconferencing Project Manager, Clyde Mohan, at [deafschoolsunite@ksd.kyschools.us](mailto:deafschoolsunite@ksd.kyschools.us) or via his Sorenson videophone at 1.866.450.2689. A deaf-relay interpreter will interpret for you so that you and Clyde may have an actual phone conversation.